

Ontario to Have Beer by the Glass—Also Wallace Beery in "Viva Villa"

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 25, No. 47

TORONTO 2, CANADA

March 17th, 1934

Viva VILLA!
Shout it from the house-tops!

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

"OKAY BOB!"



Dear Bob Montgomery -
 "Mystery of Mr. X" is one
 of the grandest things
 you have ever done
 for M.G.M.
 Your pal -



World-Telegram—...Grade A entertainment...first rate...full of humor, romance, action and suspense...Montgomery excellent...not to be missed...

Sun—...corking murder melodrama...most effective blend of suspense and light comedy...exciting yarn...suspenseful climax...good thriller...jolly picture...

Post—...entertaining picture...artful combination of humor, romance, murder and Robert Montgomery...it will pay you to see it...continuously interesting...swerves neatly from a pleasant kind of drawing-room comedy to hair-raising thrills...you can't go wrong on "Mystery of Mr. X"...

American—...one of the most entertaining mystery-comedy dramas the screen has seen...full of laughs...suspense is delightfully maintained and its climactic sequences possess excitement...has the crowds applauding...

Mirror—...superlatively entertaining thriller...exceptionally good...harrowing suspense and charming humor...strong and appealing romantic theme...tastefully produced and brilliantly acted by unusually attractive cast...has unusual quality of genuine romantic charm...far above the usual detective thriller...don't miss it...

Times—...ingenious combination of excitement, fun and romance...

News—...★★★ 3 Stars...one of the most exciting adventures encountered on a Broadway screen recently...directed with great deal of skill and thorough well-acted...

Film Daily—...better entertainment than this is hard to find...clever, suspenseful and exciting plus a neat romance...delightful and well-done...

M. P. Daily—...fine entertainment satisfaction with slam-bang finish...unique suspense situations blended with unusual charming romance...Montgomery differently clever...strong supporting cast...is packed with necessary box-office elements, including comedy...

Herald-Tribune—...entertaining picture...definitely amusing amalgamation of melodrama and comedy...smooth and finished production...expert cast admirable...Montgomery in form at extremely engaging...excellent fun...

Telegraph—...Montgomery his suave and capable best...cast excellent...

Hitler Bans Elizabeth Bergner Which Makes Her "Catherine the Great" to the Rest of the World

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

259 Spadina Ave. Toronto

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CHARLES PETTIJOHN



IT is not necessary to introduce C. C. Pettijohn to the Motion picture Industry which knows the genial Charles from coast to coast, and even across the Atlantic.

But since it has been said that "many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its fragrance on the desert air", we are inspired to talk publicly of something by way of a very good deed which the estimable Charles Pettijohn indulged in very recently.

No one who knows Mr. Pettijohn would accuse him of being any kind of a flower, nor is he in the habit of wasting blushes or the fragrance of his oratory or service on the desert air. The judicial training of this gentleman, in conjunction with his Show Business environment would rather inspire him to seek altitudes of much population and enterprise. However, it has come to our attention that Mr. Pettijohn performed a service recently to a widowed mother, in respect to saving her daughter from despair and degradation; and that this service was performed by Mr. Pettijohn at his cost, and at a certain sacrifice. The best part of this splendid service is that Mr. Pettijohn never met, nor heard of the mother, nor her daughter until he was called upon to use his influence in their service; and better still is the fact that he accomplished what he set out to do much to the satisfaction of all those who were philanthropically and humanely concerned. Thanks, Charles Pettijohn!

MORE ABOUT THE APPEAL BOARD

AGAIN we find editorial comments in connection with a suggested Film Appeal Board in Ontario; and intimations that the Appeal Board suggestion is being fostered by American Film Interests because they are endeavoring to destroy British Film patronage; and other reasons of a similar kind.

It may be true that American Film Interests are requesting the Appeal Board, this is natural since it is the American Film Interests who are predominantly promoting the Canadian Film Industry in Canada; and which comprise the dominant Film Interests here.

The meanest type of a criminal has several opportunities to appeal to a higher court than that one which has given a verdict against him. Why is it a crime, or a misdemeanor for the Film Interests to desire an Appeal Board?

Why should there be so much adverse and noticeably inspired propaganda against an Appeal proposal?

Has it ever occurred to our Government that every Commission which the Government appoints to act permanently, or temporarily, is made up of experts who know the business in which they are engaged as executive or investigator!

Why should the Motion Picture Censor Board, or an Appeal Board, be made up of persons, regardless of their service to Canada, or their integrity, or their ability in other directions, why should these Boards be made up of persons who have not been directly or actively engaged in Motion Pictures?

One engages a Banker, or Financier for a banking commission, an Engineer for Hydro-Electric operation, an Industrialist to sit in judgment upon Industry, a real estate expert to give a judgment upon real estate values.

If we do have an Appeal Board it should have Motion Picture representation, it should be a Board of Experts.



REAL



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

ASIDE from the fact that The Motion Picture Industry can be utilized, and has been utilized as a powerful educational medium, I persist in objecting to having the educational complex, or utility of Motion Pictures continually attached to it.

The Drama is so old that even Methusaleh is an infant in comparison. That scene in the Garden of Eden with a serpent walking on his hind legs, upright, and talking to Eve about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, while Adam was talking to the birds, started a triangle and a drama which combines the elements of tragedy. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the Serpent. So human to blame somebody; and when someone is to blame, tragedy and consequently Drama, follows. Now why was not the stage continually harped upon as an Educational medium throughout the ages?

No one has made the concert stage, with its musicians, its singers, an object for educational affinity. Neither has sculpture with its naked gods and goddesses, or the realm of the palette and brush been continually harped upon as educational propaganda.

Stepping into the Garden of Poetry, or Journalism, the Realm of Literature, we find those who enjoy such entertainment, or intellectual recreation, reading for the enjoyment of reading and being educated more by accident than by intent.

IAM inspired to this irritation by noting several articles of recent publication in Canada and the U.S. which editorially harp upon Motion Pictures and Education. The patrons of Motion Picture Theatres, young and old, even those who might be termed ancient attend Motion Pictures to be Entertained and Amused. If a Motion Picture program does not entertain them it is boring; and one of the most annoying factors in life is to pay to be bored. It is enough to make you feel like kicking a hole through the Screen.

Pictures made for educational purposes should be made for distribution in clinics, schools, universities, etc. This is a non-theatrical enterprise and has no relationship to Show Business, even should such pictures develop into a profitable business.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest has the dishonour of being favored with publicity and photographs of German Motion Pictures and Stars approved by Herr Adolph Hitler. The Canadian Moving Picture Digest has long since eliminated Germany from its mailing list.

There is indoor plumbing in the building of The Canadian Moving Picture Digest. Even at the risk of being forced to call a plumber, anything that "Greater-Than-God-Hitler" approves of, receives a watery reception.

THE banning of "Catherine the Great" in Germany, because of Elizabeth Bergner, must give the world which will see this magnificent production, a great big laugh. The demonstration in the lobby of a theatre in Berlin is another indication of an over-estimated valuation of the intelligence of that nation.

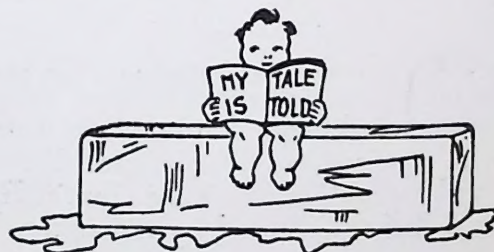
Paul Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda minister, has openly declared an Anti-Jewish boycott affecting all cabarets and theatres. "Der Deutche", the Nazi publication, reports that the situation has reached "astonishing proportions".

The Motion Picture Herald reports that "Der Deutche" publishes the following, "During recent weeks one has been able to see Storm Troopers stationed before certain entertainment places to ask the public to remove their party emblems before entering. The fact is that the employment of Jewish actors has become so scandalous that the public had to take to self-help".

ATENDING a recent meeting in Toronto, a report was read by a responsible and important visitor from Germany, who related the following: Sixty thousand Jewish families have applied to certain organizations to take their children out of Germany. Children at schools are lined up for soup and subjected to these questions. "You are an Aryan child?" "Yes." "You belong to that pure and superior race which is so loyal to Germany?" "Yes." "Your blood is pure, you are superior, you are loyal to Germany, you worship the man-god Hitler above all other worship?" "Yes." "You believe in cleansing Germany of that accursed race of parasites, lepers, etc., etc., the Jews?" "Yes." "Because you are an Aryan and a faithful German you shall have a bowl of soup."

Now comes the Jewish child in line. "You are a Jew?" "Yes." "You belong to that traitorous and lecherous, that vile scum of the earth the Jewish people who have betrayed the Fatherland?" The Jewish child must say "Yes" for fear of punishment. "You are a contamination to German children of the Aryan race, you would better be dead, etc., etc. Again the Jewish child must reply "Yes". "Since you are such a disgrace and betrayer of Germany you SHALL HAVE NO BOWL OF SOUP."

This goes on day after day and will go on until the Great Day of Reckoning for all Hamans!



Benefit Performance Underprivileged Children, Shea's, Toronto, Convenership Ray Lewis, Gives Children over \$500

Observations



By The Editor

THE Motion Picture Debate in Montreal, Que., as organized by the Women's Debating Club of Montreal resulted in a decision by the judges to the effect that Motion Pictures contributed to Juvenile Delinquency. The debate was under the auspices of the Big Sister Association. The judges were Ernest Cousin of the Kiwanis, Peter Dunnett of the St. Lawrence Kiwanis, and Henry Philips representing Rotary. The chairman was the Rev. Allen P. Shatford.

Speaking for the affirmative, Mrs. J. Addison Reid based her arguments in respect to the delinquency of adolescents on physical and moral standards.

Speaking for the negative, Mrs. A. E. Coleman.

Mrs. R. Bruce Marr contended that "The scale of values is wrong in the movies".

Mrs. Gordon Sproule was the second speaker for the negative.

* * * *

THE resultant newspaper comment editorially is of much more importance to the Industry than the debate.

In speaking for the affirmative, Mrs. Reid gave some statistical figures covering Motion Pictures in the United States, although in speaking on such a topic it would have been closer to home to have debated the subject from information and statistical facts relative to Canada. Mrs. Reid contended that half of the patrons of Motion Pictures in the U.S. were adolescents.

1,500 pictures, taken at random, 500 produced in 1920, two years after the Armistice, 500 from 1930 and 500 from 1925, revealed according to Mrs. Reid that 75% to 80% were pictures of "Love, Sex and Mystery". Mrs. Reid claimed that the crimes in the Mystery pictures were committed not by the criminal in the picture but the "handsome young hero".

The "limited occupations of the heroes and heroines in Movie-life" was instanced. Mary Pickford, Greta Garbo and Norma Shearer were brought into the debate. The adolescent is harmed physically stated Mrs. Reid at the close of her debate, through too much excitement and loss of sleep.

Mrs. A. E. Coleman had the best kind of an argument on the negative side when she contended that the research work was done in the U.S. and not in Canada. The chief reason for crime in the U.S. contended Mrs. Coleman "is not the movies but divorce and the breaking up of the home, also the influence of prohibition, that pitiful experiment."

Another real argument was that in Montreal the cases before the Juvenile Court are increasing in spite of the fact that children are not allowed to go to the movies.

* * * *

MRS. R. BRUCE MARR, affirmative, presented an argument that the voices in Movies were harsh and that "there was no beauty of thought, word or deed in the average movie".

She concluded her argument by stating "parents are indeed fortunate in the Province of Quebec", meaning to imply since children cannot attend Movies, and yet

according to Mrs. A. E. Coleman child delinquency in Montreal is on the increase.

Mrs. Gordon Sproule contended that "Since the day of Adam everyone who commits a crime seeks an excuse for it".

* * * *

IT is not your Observer's intention to discuss the weaknesses in the debate, or its strength. There is no law, common or legal which can prevent anyone, individually organizing such a debate, or through an association. The arguments which were presented as facts, and which selected 1,500 pictures from 1920-1925-1930; and which involved a survey of the U.S. should have been dismissed by the judges as irrelevant unless the pictures under discussion had been distributed in Canada; and even then pictures produced fourteen years ago have no legal or moral status by way of presentation as examples.

The Montreal situation in relationship to increase of child delinquency where children are not admitted to Movies through legislation should have appealed to the judges as a substantial argument not easily dismissed.

* * * *

WHAT the Motion Picture Industry should do is to have another debate and to present facts in relationship to Canada; and by debaters who know Motion Pictures; and who are in position to get a report on Child Delinquency.

Every time our Industry is made aware of such a debate, which always receives advance notice, our Industry should present its facts to another group of debaters. The old theory that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is still an example of much common sense. The repercussions from the publicity which such debates precipitate should be recognized.

* * * *

AT the Parliament Theatre, Toronto, recently the Vitagraph Limited presented four Warner Bros. - First National pictures to which the Trade received invitations.

The Trade Show is the second annual of its kind introduced in Canada by this company, and is an excellent idea. The Show commenced at 10 a.m. with the presentation of "As the Earth Turns" with Jean Muir, Donald Woods, Dorothy Peterson, David Landau. This picture received plenty of applause from the crowded theatre of exhibitors.

The second presentation was at 11.15 and "Gambling Lady" was the picture.

At 2 P.M. "Journal of a Crime" with Ruth Chatterton, Adolph Menjou and Claire Todd was presented, and following this, at 3.15 P.M. "Wonder Bar", a truly wonderful picture, which appeared to have everything meant for box-office success associated with it. Al Jolson is star supreme, and what a part he has, the best he has had for so long, we almost forgot the count of years. Kay Francis, Dolores del Rio, Dick Powell, Ricardo Cortez all have real parts. It's a big picture and as the exhibitors say, "Its success is all in the bag".

Katharine Hepburn and Charles Laughton get Academy Award for Year's Best Performance

Exhibitor Slugger Gets Suspended Sentence

Gordon Duncan, alias Lewis, who was convicted recently for assaulting George Lester, proprietor of the King's Theatre, Toronto, and of conspiracy with Peter Rutledge, alias Sloan, was placed on suspended sentence and on probation for one year in County Court, March 5.

Duncan, after being found guilty, was given 15 months in the reformatory. Chief Coroner Dr. M. M. Crawford reported that Rutledge was suffering from a severe spinal condition. Judge Parker taking this condition into consideration stated that he could not take the responsibility of confining Rutledge. Meanwhile, Mr. Lester's condition, as a result of the blows which he received, is not so favorable either.

Irving Field and John Voxivinsky who were also charged in this case were acquitted. Field was acquitted through the intervention of George Lester.

Regina Proposes New Civic Legislation--May Affect Movies

Representatives of Motion Picture Interests and dance halls were invited to attend a meeting to discuss proposed new civic legislation in respect to midnight frolics starting immediately after midnight, Sundays, holy days and holidays being involved. Ald. Gardner's special committee of the city council were dealing with the matter.

Moving Picture houses were not affected under the old early closing by-law but a new situation had arisen which might bring in civic legislation to which they would be subjected.

"Catherine the Great"

The presentation of "Catherine the Great" with Elizabeth Bergner and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., as Queen and King has been acclaimed by the Toronto press and by the public. The Uptown has been playing to packed business and the picture has been held over for a second week. Alexander Korda, producer of "Henry VIII", is the producer of this magnificent production; and between the two pictures the only division of opinion is what picture is the greatest.

Dawson of Vancouver Buys British Films

Manager Dawson of Vancouver who operates the Lonsdale Theatre, North Vancouver, The Maple Leaf Theatre and the Playhouse, at Victoria, B.C., has recently made a contract for a group of Gaumont-British - Regal Films, in which "Henry VIII" and "The Girl From Maxim's" are included.

"Rasputin and the Empress" Has Not Been Cancelled

Following the verdict in the case of "Rasputin and the Empress", Mr. H. Nathanson of Regal Films, states that approximately 50% of the theatres in Toronto had played this film; and that his company had received no word from Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to cancel any further bookings on the picture.

Kitchener, Ont., is to have a new theatre according to a recent announcement. The Old Ford Garage on College St., is the proposed site. The building is to be rebuilt at an approximate cost of \$10,000.

Census Report states 200 Motion Picture Stars Appear in Broadcasts— Exhibitors Protest Competition

Knights of Columbus Building Leased for Theatre

The Knights of Columbus headquarters on Cobourg St., St. John, has been leased by the Saint John Amusement Co., Limited, and is to open as a theatre in September. This announcement came from Paul C. Quinn, solicitor for the Amusement Co. which was granted incorporation some time ago at Fredericton. Offices of the Knights of Columbus Property Co., Ltd., owners of the building confirmed the lease.

The new theatre is to have a seating capacity of 900 and will be thoroughly modern in its construction.

Capitol Theatre Winter Fair London Merchants Co-operate

The Lobby of the Capitol Theatre, London, Ont., presented a display of merchandise which included everything from "a pin to an elephant", the British Film success "Channel Crossing", in which Matheson Lang is featured was one of the Film Attractions for the week. Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey in "Hips Hips Hooray", another feature film.

The London Free Press presented a full page in its Saturday edition in which theatre and merchants attractively presented their appeal for patronage.

Midway Photoplay Co. Fined in Montreal

Judge Monet of Montreal fined the Midway Photoplay Company, operators of the Midway Theatre, St. Lawrence Blvd., \$50 and costs for their failure to supply information to the Federal Income Tax Department before the expiration of the time limit. The case is the first of its kind taken by the department covering a period of three years.

Local Council of Women Take Carlton Theatre

The Local Council of Women co-operated with the Carlton Theatre this week selling tickets for two nights performances, Thursday and Friday, when two British pictures were presented, "Mr. Smith" with Tom Walls, and "Secret Service", a B.I.P. feature in which Greta Nissen played an important part. "Secret Service" was a splendid picture, big enough and good enough for a first-run house.

Popular Archie Laurie With Empire Films, Toronto

Popular Archie Laurie is now stationed at Toronto, with the Empire Films, in the capacity of Sales Representative. Mr. Laurie's experience as a salesman and "square-shooter" needs no comment from The Digest.

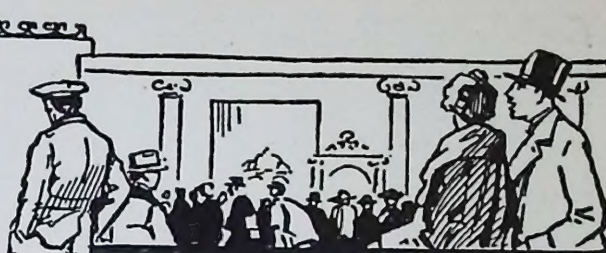
"Channel Crossing" Makes Hit

Recently, the Uptown Theatre, Toronto, presented "Channel Crossing", a British-Gaumont Regal release starring Matheson Lang and Constance Cummings. The picture was splendidly presented by Tom Daley, manager of The Uptown and made a most favorable impression.

Thieves broke into the office of the Bloor Theatre, Toronto, but secured nothing for their effort.



Show Business



"The Barretts of Wimpole Street" Nears Completion

No. 50 Wimpole Street, London, scene of the poet Browning's famous romance with Elizabeth Barrett, is to be faultlessly reproduced in its entirety at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio for the screening of "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" in which Norma Shearer will next star.

The historic house, a brick structure of Georgian architecture, is preserved as a Browning memorial in the English capital and is said to stand today, as it did in 1845, when the great poet paid court to the sheltered Elizabeth with whom he eloped.

Films in Production at Gaumont

Films now in production at the Gaumont-British Studios at Shepherd's Bush are "Jew Suss", with Conrad Veidt; "Little Friend", and "A Cup of Kindness", a comedy with Tom Walls and Ralph Lynn. At the Islington Studios, "Chu Chin Chow", is being produced.

John Barrymore Signed by RKO Radio

John Barrymore, has been signed by RKO Radio Pictures to play the starring role in the screen transfer of the recent Broadway stage hit, "Wednesday's Child", according to an announcement by Pandro S. Berman, Executive Producer for the RKO Studios, Inc.

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Everything for the Theatre
from Sheet to Street.

Coleman Electric Co.

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TORONTO, ONT.

Warner National Trade Exhibit Big Success

The Warner Bros.' National Trade Exhibit of Spring Product met with the enthusiastic approval of over 20,000 exhibitors and their friends in the United States and Canada, where the screenings were held in each of the company's branches. Immediately following the showings, letters and wires came pouring into the company's home office, from exhibitors who expressed their appreciation at being permitted to preview the company's impending product.

Included in the product previewed as part of this Spring exhibit were "Wonder Bar", "Journal of a Crime", "As the Earth Turns", "Jimmy the Gent", "Gambling Lady" and "Harold Teen".

"This Man Is Mine" Title of New RKO Radio Film

Irene Dunne's new starring vehicle for RKO Radio Pictures will be released under the title, "This Man Is Mine". This production, formerly titled "Transient Love", is based upon the stage play, "Love Flies In The Window", by Anne Morrison Chapin.

"Doll Diggers of 1934"

"The Doll Diggers of 1934" is the title of the newest Hal Roach-M-G-M "Our Gang" comedy. Gus Meins directed and "Spanky" McFarland, "Stymie" Beard and Jacquelyn Taylor headed a cast of more than a dozen juvenile players.

M-G-M to Produce Original Screen Story

"Manners Maketh the Man", an original screen story with an Oxford University background, by John Monk Saunders, has been purchased by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and will be produced under supervision of John Considine. Announcement as to the star who will play the leading role is expected in the near future. Among the stories which Saunders has written for motion picture use are "Wings", "The Dawn Patrol" and "The Finger Points".

Huston Film on Broadway

Walter Huston, current Broadway hit in "Dodsworth", makes his latest screen starring appearance concurrently with his stage engagement, in "Keep 'Em Rolling", RKO Radio's action-drama produced at Fort Myer, Virginia.

Lee Tracy Signed by Universal

Upon the completion of "I'll Tell the World", Carl Laemmle, Jr., announced the signing of a five-year contract with Lee Tracy. Under this arrangement Tracy will make four pictures a year for Universal.

"Honor of the Range" is the new title of Ken Maynard's Western picture recently completed at Universal City. This title displaces the old one.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — Anna Sten in "Nana", a Twentieth Century - United Artists production.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — George Raft with Carole Lombard, Sally Rand, and Frances Drake in "Bolero", Paramount production.

TIVOLI—Manager Alfred Sedgwick — "Massacre", a First National picture, with Richard Barthelmess and Ann Dvorak.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — "The Day of Reckoning", with Richard Dix, produced by RKO.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "Catherine the Great", with Elizabeth Bergner, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., distributed through Regal Films Limited.

Critics All Agree Regarding "Nana" that Anna Sten is Certainly Good to Look Upon

HELD OVER!

Uptown Theatre,
Toronto,

Smashing All Records This Week

with Alexander Korda's
Newest Triumphant Hit



CATHERINE THE GREAT

*The Most Stupendous, Lavish and
Dramatic Picture Ever Produced!*

STARRING THE SENSATIONAL

ELIZABETH BERGNER

AND

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, JR.

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*Sole Distributors
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